AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) Stealth lipid nanocapsules comprising an essentially lipid core which is liquid or semi-liquid at ambient temperature, and an outer lipid envelope comprising at least one hydrophilic surfactant which is lipidic in nature, at least one lipophilic surfactant which is lipidic in nature and at least one amphiphilic derivative of poly(ethylene glycol), wherein the molar mass of the poly(ethylene glycol) component is greater than or equal to ~~1 000~~ 1000 g/mol.

2. (Currently Amended) The stealth lipid nanocapsules according to Claim 1 wherein the molar mass of the poly(ethylene glycol) component is greater than or equal to ~~2 000~~ 2000 g/mol.

3. (Previously Presented) The stealth lipid nanocapsules according to Claim 1, wherein said lipophilic surfactant is a lecithin, the phosphatidylcholine proportion of which is at least equal to 95%.

4. (Previously Presented) The stealth lipid nanocapsules according to Claim 1, wherein said lipophilic surfactant has a gel/liquid transition temperature of at least equal to 25°C.

5. (Previously Presented) The stealth lipid nanocapsules according to Claim 1, wherein the lipophilic surfactant is a phospholipid comprising acyl chains of at least 16 carbon atoms.

6. (Previously Presented) The stealth lipid nanocapsules according to Claim 5, wherein said lipophilic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of HSPC (hydrogenated soy phosphatidylcholine), DSPC (distearoylphosphatidylcholine) and DPPC (dipalmitoylphosphatidylcholine), and mixtures thereof.

7. (Previously Presented) The stealth lipid nanocapsules according to Claim 1, wherein said lipophilic surfactant represents between 5 and 30 mol% of the molecules making up said outer lipid envelope.

8. (Previously Presented) The stealth lipid nanocapsules according to Claim 1, wherein said hydrophilic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of poly(ethylene glycol) alkyl esters and poly(ethylene glycol) alkyl ethers, and mixtures thereof.

9. (Original) The stealth lipid nanocapsules according to Claim 8, wherein said hydrophilic surfactant is a nonionic surfactant of the poly(ethylene glycol)-660 12-hydroxystearate type comprising a chain of 15 units of ethylene glycol.

10. (Previously Presented) The stealth lipid nanocapsules according to Claim 1, wherein said hydrophilic surfactant represents between 60 and 90 mol% of the molecules making up said outer lipid envelope.

11. (Previously Presented) The stealth lipid nanocapsules according to Claim 1, wherein said amphiphilic derivative of poly(ethylene glycol) comprises a hydrophobic component which allows it to be anchored in said outer lipid envelope and a hydrophilic component of the poly(ethylene glycol) type facing the outside of said lipid nanocapsules, conferring hydrophilic properties at the surface thereof.

12. (Previously Presented) The stealth lipid nanocapsules according to Claim 1, wherein said amphiphilic derivative of poly(ethylene glycol) is chosen from biodegradable phospholipids.

13. (Currently Amended) The stealth lipid nanocapsules according to Claim 12, wherein said biodegradable phospholipids are selected from the group consisting of

DPPE-PEG_x (dipalmitoylphosphatidylethanolamine),

DSPE-PEG_x (distearoylphosphatidylethanolamine),

DOPE-PEG_x (dioleoylphosphatidylethanolamine), and

POPE-PEG_x (palmitoyloleylphosphatidylethanolamine),

in which x is greater than or equal to ~~1 000~~ 1000 g/mol, and mixtures thereof.

14. (Previously Presented) The stealth lipid nanocapsules according to Claim 13, wherein said biodegradable phospholipids are selected from the group consisting of DSPE-PEG_{2000}, DSPE-PEG_{3000} and DSPE-PEG_{5000}, and mixtures thereof.

15. (Previously Presented) The stealth lipid nanocapsules according to Claim 1, wherein said amphiphilic derivative of poly(ethylene glycol) represents between 0.5 and 12 mol% of the molecules making up said outer lipid envelope.

16. (Previously Presented) The stealth lipid nanocapsules according to Claim 1, wherein said essentially lipid core represents between 20 and 60% by weight relative to the total weight of said nanocapsules.

17. (Previously Presented) The stealth lipid nanocapsules according to Claim 1, wherein said essentially lipid core is composed of fatty acid esters and/or of triglycerides and/or of oil and/or mixtures thereof.

18. (Currently Amended) The stealth lipid nanocapsules according to Claim 17, wherein the triglycerides making up said essentially lipid core are chosen from the medium chain triglycerides ~~carrying~~ comprising from 6 to 14 carbon atoms, caprylic/capric triglycerides, and mixtures thereof.

19. (Currently Amended) The stealth lipid nanocapsules according to Claim 17, wherein the fatty acid esters making up said essentially lipid core are

selected from the group consisting of medium chain fatty acids ~~carrying~~ comprising from 8 to 18 carbon atoms.

20. (Original) The stealth lipid nanocapsules according to Claim 19, wherein the fatty acid esters making up said essentially lipid core are selected from the group consisting of ethyl palmitate, ethyl oleate, ethyl myristate, isopropyl myristate, octyldodecyl myristate, and mixtures thereof.

21. (Currently Amended) The stealth lipid nanocapsules according to Claim 1, ~~being~~ wherein said nanocapsules have a diameter between 50 and 150 nm~~, in diameter~~.

22. (Previously Presented) The stealth lipid nanocapsules according to Claim 1, wherein the outer surface of said outer lipid envelope is hydrophilic in nature, and the essentially lipid core is lipophilic in nature.

23. (Previously Presented) The stealth lipid nanocapsules according to Claim 1, carrying at their surface specific ligands which confer upon them the ability to actively target cells having receptors for these ligands, in particular tumor cells.

24. (Previously Presented) The stealth lipid nanocapsules according to Claim 23, wherein said ligand is selected from the group consisting of the saccharide, oligosaccharide, vitamin, oligopeptide, antibody fragment and monoclonal antibody types.

25. (Previously Presented) The stealth lipid nanocapsules according to Claim 1, having a half-life of at least 2 hours in the blood compartment of the host to which they are administered.

26. (Previously Presented) The stealth lipid nanocapsules according to Claim 1, being able to rapidly release most of their contents by enzymatic digestion or other biodegradation.

27. (Previously Presented) The stealth lipid nanocapsules according to Claim 1, containing one or more active principles.

28. (Original) The stealth lipid nanocapsules according to Claim 27, containing one or more anticancer active principles which are mainly lipophilic in nature.

29. (Currently Amended) The stealth lipid nanocapsules according to Claim 28, wherein the anticancer active principles are selected from the group consisting of paclitaxel, docetaxel, camptothecin, irinotecan, topotecan, rubitecan, busulfan, chlorambucil, phthalocyanins, carotenoids and daunomycin.

30. (Original) The stealth lipid nanocapsules according to Claim 27, containing one or more anticancer active principles which are amphiphilic in nature.

31. (Currently Amended) The stealth lipid nanocapsules according to Claim 30, wherein the anticancer active principles are selected from the group consisting of cytarabine, cyclophosphamide, methotrexate, 5-fluorouracil, 5-fluorouridine, and doxorubicin.

32. (Original) The stealth lipid nanocapsules according to Claim 27, containing one or more active principles selected from the group consisting of anti-inflammatories, corticoids, antibiotics, analgesics and anti-infectious agents.

33. (Original) The stealth lipid nanocapsules according to Claim 32 containing dexamethasone, indomethacin, ibuprofen, ketoprofen, ketoconazole, prostaglandin E1 or amphotericin B.

34-42. (Canceled)

43. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the lipid nanocapsules according to Claim 1 and a carrier therefor.

44. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 43, being in the form of a colloidal aqueous suspension containing said lipid nanocapsules.

45.-51. (Canceled)

52. (Previously Presented) The stealth lipid nanocapsules according to Claim 3, wherein said lipophilic surfactant is a lecithin, the phosphatidylcholine proportion of which is greater than 99%.

53. (Previously Presented) The stealth lipid nanocapsules according to Claim 4, wherein said lipophilic surfactant has a gel/liquid transition temperature greater than 37°C.

54. (Previously Presented) The stealth lipid nanocapsules according to Claim 10, wherein said hydrophilic surfactant represents 80 mol% of the molecules making up said outer lipid envelope.

55. (Previously Presented) The stealth lipid nanocapsules according to Claim 15, wherein said amphiphilic derivative of poly(ethylene glycol) represents between 1 and 10 mol% of the molecules making up said outer lipid envelope.

56. (Previously Presented) The stealth lipid nanocapsules according to Claim 16, wherein said essentially lipid core represents between 25 and 50% by weight relative to the total weight of said nanocapsules.

57. (Previously Presented) The stealth lipid nanocapsules according to Claim 21, being between 80 and 120 nm, in diameter.

58. (Previously Presented) A method for treating cancer comprising the intravenous administration of the lipid nanocapsules according to Claim 28 or Claim 30, to a subject in need thereof.

59. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 58, for treating solid or circulating tumors.

60. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 59, for treating circulating or solid tumors by active targeting.

61. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 58, for treating solid tumors by passive targeting subsequent to the extravasation of said nanocapsules through the tumor capillaries.

62. (Currently Amended) A method for treating inflammations and/or infections of tissues comprising administering to a subject in need thereof the lipid nanocapsules according to Claim ~~38~~ 1.

63. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 58, wherein the lipid nanocapsules are administered parenterally.

64. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 63, wherein the lipid nanocapsules are injected into the circulation of a subject intravascularly,

intravenously, intra-arterially, intraperitonealy, intramuscularly, subcutaneously or intra-articularly.

65. (Previously Presented) A method for taking up hydrophobic molecules present in the blood circulation of a subject subsequent to an instance of poisoning comprising administering to said subject lipid nanocapsules according to Claim 1.

66. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 58, wherein the toxicity of the active principle(s) against the healthy tissues is reduced.

67. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 62, wherein the lipid nanocapsules are administered parenterally.

68. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 67, wherein the lipid nanocapsules are injected into the circulation of a subject intravascularly, intravenously, intra-arterially, intraperitonealy, intramuscularly, subcutaneously or intra-articularly.

69. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 62, wherein the toxicity of the active principle(s) against the healthy tissues is reduced.